

Appl. No. 10/648,043
Amdt. Dated July 19, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 21, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 81784.0281
Customer No.: 26021

Amendments to the Drawings:

Attached are replacement sheets for Figs. 6 and 7 of the drawing. The first sheet, which includes Fig. 6, replaces the original sheet which includes Fig. 6 and now bears the label "RELATED ART". The second sheet, which includes Fig. 7, replaces the original sheet which includes Fig. 7 and now bears the label "RELATED ART".

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-7 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is being amended to improve its form. No new matter is involved.

In Paragraph 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, the drawings are objected to because Figures 6 and 7 should be labeled "RELATED ART". In response, Applicants are enclosing replacement sheets for Figs. 6 and 7 which include the label "RELATED ART" on each such sheet. Accordingly, the requirement for corrected drawing sheets has been complied with.

In Paragraph 2 which begins at the bottom of page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,956,621 of Movshovish, et al. In response, Applicants are amending claim 1 so that claims 1-4, 6 and 7 should be allowable in addition to claim 5.

According to the Office Action, and in connection with claim 1 by way of example, the claimed amplifier circuit is said to be met by the programmable amplifier 104 shown in Fig. 3 of Movshovish. The claimed clamp circuit is said to be met by the clamping circuit which removes the DC component and which is shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The claimed time constant is said to be met by the time constant of the Fig. 3 configuration which includes C1, R2, based upon the comparison via 110 (which includes the gain amplified signal with a reference black level).

However, Movshovish has a capacitor C1 and a resistor R1, the time constant which is defined by the capacitor C1 and the resistor R1 and which is fixed. In the case of the present invention, the gain is changeable and the time constant used for the clamping of the video signal in the clamp circuit is changed in accordance with the gain of the amplifier circuit.

Claim 1 is being amended by adding the language thereto ", the gain of the amplifier circuit is changeable and the time constant of the clamp circuit is changed

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in accordance with a change in the gain of the amplifier circuit". As so amended, claim 1 is submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over Movshovish in which a fixed time constant is defined by the capacitor C1 and the resistor R1.

Claims 2-7 depend, directly or indirectly from, and contain all of the limitations of claim 1, so that such claims are also submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the art.

The indication in Paragraph 3 on page 4 of the Office Action that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form has been duly noted.

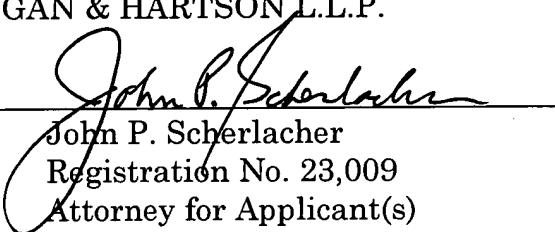
In conclusion, claims 1-7 as amended herein are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the prior art. Figs. 6 and 7 of the drawings have been amended as required. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6846 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: July 19, 2006

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